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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Numbers **98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197**

The forced molting of laying hens has been demonstrated scientifically to be a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and those who consume eggs. The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health. Merely adding bacteria warning labels to egg cartons and regulating egg refrigeration temperatures is not enough. The FDA, which was petitioned to ban forced molting in April 1998, must grant this petition without further delay and ban the forced molting of laying hens.

Sincerely,

*Edward P. Butler*

7/31/99

96P-0418

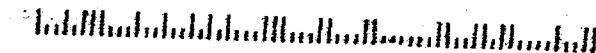
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DOCKETS MGMT. BRANCH (HFA-305)  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
[DOCKET NOS. 98N-1230, 96P-0418, 97P-0197]  
5630 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 1061  
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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C47

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C48

96P 0418/ C47